

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute Figs. 1, 2(a), 2(b), 3(a), 3(b), 4-10, 11(a) and 11(b) sent to the Official Draftsperson on today's date for the figures already in the file. A copy of the replacement drawings is included for the Examiner's convenience.

IN THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 of page 6 with the following:

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The methods described herein are preferably implemented as software instructions stored in memory 104 and executed by processor 102. These instructions can also be stored on computer readable medium 140, such as disk drive, memory, CD ROM, etc. System 100 also includes an input device 120, such as a keyboard or a mouse, and an output display device 130, such as a display screen.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 6 with the following:

In other preferred embodiments, search engine 112 and data/lists 114 reside on different computers or in different memories. The search engine can also be included in a client/server model in which the search engine acts as a server, sending results lists to requesting clients in response to queries.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 20 and 21 as follows. Please cancel claim 13. A marked-up version of the amended claims follows the Remarks section. A copy of all pending claims is included below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1 1. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for searching a large number  
2 of hypertext documents in accordance with a current search query, comprising:  
3 determining which of the hypertext documents are expert documents;  
4 ranking the expert documents in accordance with the current search query by:  
5 determining a level score for each of the expert documents;  
6 determining a fullness factor for each key phrase on each of the  
7 expert documents; and  
8 determining an expert score for each expert document in accordance  
9 with the level score of the expert document and the fullness  
10 factors for the key phrases of the expert document;  
11 ranking target documents pointed to by the ranked expert documents; and  
12 returning a results list based on the ranked target documents.

1 2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext  
2 documents are pages in the world wide web.

1 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext  
2 documents are sites in the world wide web.

1 4. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext  
2 documents are documents in a hypertext database.

1 5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein an expert reverse  
2 index is constructed in memory for keywords appearing in the expert documents, the  
3 expert reverse index identifying the location of the keywords in the expert documents.

1 6. The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein a keyword of an  
2 expert document is included in the expert reverse index if the keyword is part of a key  
3 phrase that qualifies at least one URL in the expert document.

1 7. The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein a key phrase  
2 qualifies a URL if the URL is within the scope of the key phrase in the expert  
3 document.

1 8. The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein a key phrase in an  
2 HTML title qualifies all URLs in the entire document.

1 9. The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein a key phrase in an  
2 HTML heading qualifies all URLs in that portion of the document before a next HTML  
3 heading in the document of greater or equal importance.

1 10. The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein a key phrase in an  
2 HTML anchor qualifies the URLs in the anchor.

1 11. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein determining which  
2 of the hypertext documents are expert documents includes:  
3 determining a document having at least a predetermined number of outlinks to  
4 be an expert document if the document also points to at least the  
5 predetermined number of targets on distinct non-affiliated hosts.

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1 12. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein expert  
2 documents additionally must point to documents that share the same broad  
3 classification.

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1 14. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein ranking target  
2 documents pointed to by the expert documents includes:  
3 determining a plurality of edge scores for each target document, where an edge  
4 score is determined for edges between the expert documents and the target  
5 document;  
6 determining a target score in accordance with the edge scores of the target  
7 document;  
8 ranking the target documents in accordance with the target scores.

1 15. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further including:  
2 determining an edge score only for those links to the target document from a  
3 predetermined number of top-ranked expert documents.

1 16. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, further including selecting  
2 target documents to be ranked that are linked to by at least two mutually non-  
3 affiliated selected expert documents, where the selected target also is not affiliated with  
4 the expert documents.

1 17. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, where an edge score  
2 between an expert document and a target document  $ES(E,T)$  is determined as follows,  
3 where ExpertScore reflects the rankings of the expert documents:

- 4 a) find #occurrences of each keyword in all keyphrases of expert document E  
5 b) if the #occurrences for any keyword in E is 0:  $ES(E,T)=0$   
6 else  $ES(E,T)=ExpertScore(E) * \text{sum of \#occurrences for all keywords.}$

1 18. The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein, if two  
2 affiliated experts have edges to the same target, the edge having a lower edge  
3 score is discarded and is not used to determine the target score.

1 19. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein two hypertext  
2 documents are affiliated if at least one of the following is true: 1) they share the same  
3 rightmost non-generic suffix and 2) they have an IP address in common.

1 20. (Amended) An apparatus that searches a large number of hypertext  
2 documents in accordance with a current search query, comprising:  
3 a software portion configured to determine which of the hypertext documents  
4 are expert documents;  
5 a software portion configured to rank the expert documents in accordance with  
6 the current search query by:

7 determining a level score for each of the expert documents;  
8 determining a fullness factor for each key phrase on each of the  
9 expert documents; and  
10 determining an expert score for each expert document in accordance  
11 with the level score of the expert document and the fullness  
12 factors for the key phrases of the expert document;  
13 a software portion configured to rank target documents pointed to by the ranked  
14 expert documents; and